Reference Conditions

Gulf of Mexico Alliance

Nutrient Sources, Fate, & Transport Study Design Workshop

February 19-21, 2008

Reference Conditions

- Initial Considerations
  - How are reference conditions defined? E.g. current baseline vs. historical "pre-impact" conditions.
  - What ecological endpoints are to be considered for reference (e.g. hypoxia)?
  - What types of data are appropriate for defining reference conditions? (e.g. are sediment core data acceptable for establishing historical conditions)

Reference Conditions

- How will QA/QC issues with data from different sources be addressed?

- Can model hindcasts be used to determine baseline conditions?

- Are reference sites needed given the differences between systems? Classification issue.

- Thresholds rather than reference conditions (NEEA approach)?